

Remarks

Claims 1-10, 12-20, and 22-29 are pending. Claim 21 was previously canceled. Claim 11 is canceled by this communication. Claims 1-20, and 22-29 are rejected.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-10, and 12-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly lacking sufficient description in the specification. Applicants believe these rejections are moot in light of the amendments to claims 1 and 12.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 22-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,926,919 to Hossainy et al. ("Hossainy").

Claim 22 is drawn to a method of surface modification of a coating on an implantable medical device. The method comprises the act of forming a first layer of the coating on the device, the first layer including a hydrophobic polymer and a first hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer. **The hydrophobic polymer and the hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer in the second layer in the first layer have a mass ratio between about 49:1 and about 19:1.**

Hossainy describes forming a polymeric coating on a medical device. However, **there is no description or teaching in Hossainy of a coating that includes a first layer having a hydrophobic polymer and a hydrophilic or amphiphilic polymer having a mass ratio between about 49:1 and about 19:1.** Accordingly, claim 22 is patentably

allowable over Hossainy under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Claims 23-29 depend from claim 22 and are patentably allowable over Hossainy for at least the same reason.

The undersigned authorizes the examiner to charge any fees that may be required or credit of any overpayment to be made to Deposit Account No. 07-1850.

Withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any suggestions or amendments to the claims to place the claims

in condition for allowance, applicant would prefer a telephone call to the

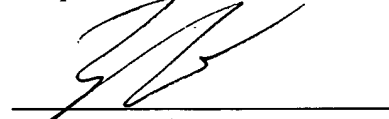
undersigned attorney for approval of an Examiner's amendment. If the Examiner

has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned

attorney at (415) 393-9885.

Date: November 29, 2006
Squire, Sanders & Dempsey L.L.P.
One Maritime Plaza, Suite 300
San Francisco, CA 94111
Telephone (415) 393-9885
Facsimile (415) 393-9887

Respectfully submitted,



Zhaoyang Li, Ph.D.
Reg. No. 46,872